

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

**Whereas**, The Poppy was first used as a living memorial to the American war dead following the first world war, as veterans who returned home recalled the wild poppies which lined the devastated battlefields of France and Flanders; and,

**Whereas**, The American Legion Auxiliary's Poppy Program began spontaneously in 1919 as the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division in Milwaukee returned home, and the paper poppies decorating the coffee and doughnut booth were stripped from the booth by grateful Americans who left donations to benefit disabled veterans; and,

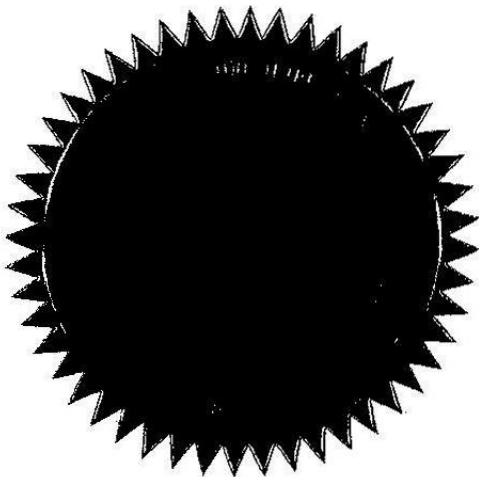
**Whereas**, Since 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary has been spearheading the sale of poppies all across the nation around Memorial Day, using the proceeds to benefit disabled American Veterans; and,

**Whereas**, The Poppy, the flower with a heart, will again be offered to the American public as we approach Memorial Day, and South Dakotans will, as they always have, be generous in their contributions to benefit disabled American veterans:

**Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds**, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 18, 2003, as

#### *POPPY DAY*


in South Dakota, and I urge our citizenry to recall the incredible sacrifices of all our veterans and by a poppy to signify our gratitude and appreciation.



**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirteenth Day of May in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

  
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

**Attest:**

  
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State